

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 29 are pending in the present application.

On 22 FEB 2002, Applicants submitted an information disclosure statement that included a PTO-1449 (hereinafter "the PTO-1449") that lists several references, including:

- (a) FR 2,789,775; and
- (b) Technical Disclosure Bulletin, IBM Vol. 37, No. 12, December 1994.

With an office action dated 27 DEC 2005, the Office included a copy of the PTO-1449, but the PTO-1449 does not indicate that the Office considered the two above-noted references. On 20 JUN 2006, Examiner Krisciunas confirmed that the Office's file includes a copy of the references, however, she noted that the English abstract for FR 2,789,775 is missing. Accordingly, Applicants are submitting herewith a copy of the English abstract for FR 2,789,775, and respectfully request that with the next communication, the Examiner includes **a copy of the PTO-1449 indicating that the Office considered FR 2,789,775 and Technical Disclosure Bulletin, IBM Vol. 37, No. 12, December 1994.**

In section 5 of the Office Action, claims 1 – 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,092,048 to Nakaoka (hereinafter "the Nakaoka patent"). Applicants are traversing this rejection.

Claim 1 provides for a method. The method includes exhibiting a work item in a process view that presents a graphical representation of the work item within a process, and includes a directed line that represents a sequential relationship of the work item relative to another work item in the process.

FIG. 4 of the present application is an illustration of a process view 400 that includes work items 415 and 425. Process view 400 also includes a directed line, from work item 415 to work item 425, that represents a sequential relationship between work item 415 and work item 425.

The Nakaoka patent is directed toward a task execution support system (title). FIG. 11 of the Nakaoka patent is a diagram of a task list display section (col. 6, line 65). The Nakaoka patent, with reference to FIG. 11, at col. 11, lines 47 - 51 states:

The task title column 11020 displays thereon task titles of the task entries expressed by the lines at every line, the icons indicative of the existence of subtask and the tree structure expressing the main task and subtask relation of the tasks. (emphasis added)

The Office Action, on page 3, suggests that the graphical representation of FIG. 11 includes a directed line that represents a sequential relationship between work items. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

As noted above, the passage at col. 11, lines 47 – 51 refers to a tree structure expressing the main task and subtask relation of the tasks. The Nakaoka patent also explains that a task can be hierarchized by the main task and subtask structure (col. 6, lines 40 – 42). Hence, the relationship between the main task and the subtask, as disclosed by the Nakaoka patent, is a hierarchical relationship.

A hierarchical relationship is not the same as a sequential relationship. For example, FIG. 11 does not indicate any particular sequence for the tasks listed therein. For that matter, FIG. 11 does not list tasks in the order that the tasks are performed. To the contrary, in FIG. 11, a task completion check column 11025 indicates whether or not the task entry expressed by each line is completed, and specifically shows that a couple of tasks are completed in an order that is different from the order in which the tasks are listed. FIG. 11 does not show a sequential relationship between tasks.

Thus, the Nakaoka patent's disclosure of the hierarchical relationship between the main task and the subtask is not a disclosure of a sequential relationship between the main task and the subtask. Moreover, FIG. 11 does not include a directed line between tasks, and does not show a sequential relationship between tasks. Consequently, the Nakaoka patent does not disclose or suggest a **directed line** that represents a **sequential relationship** of said work item relative to another work item, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, the Nakaoka patent does not anticipate claim 1.

The application contains three independent claims, namely claims 1, 11 and 21. Claims 11 and 21 each include recitals similar to that of claim 1, as described above. Therefore, claims 11 and 21, for reasoning similar to that provided in support of claim 1, are also novel over the Nakaoka patent.

Claims 2 – 10 depend from claim 1; claims 12 – 20 depend from claim 11; and claims 22 – 29 depend from claim 21. By virtue of these dependencies, claims 2 – 10, 12 – 20 and 22 – 29 are all novel over the Nakaoka patent.

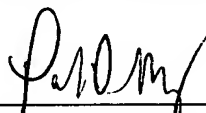
Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 102(b) rejection of claims 1 – 29.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims presented in this application patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Date

6/21/06

Respectfully submitted,



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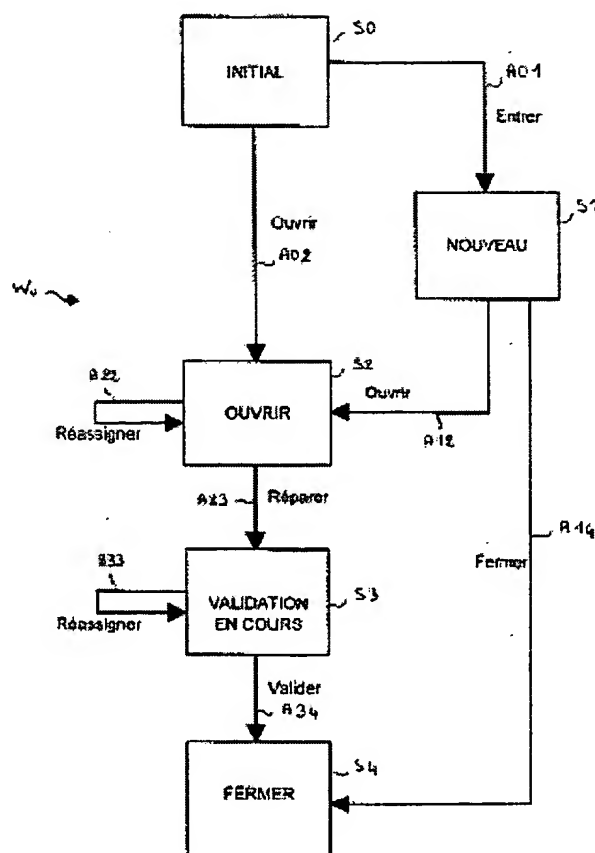
Method and graphic display tool for representing a dynamic process such as workflow

Publication number: FR2789775
Publication date: 2000-08-18
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Classification:
- International: G06F9/44; G06F9/44; (IPC1-7): G06F9/44
- european: G06F9/44W
Application number: FR19990001876 19990216
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Abstract of FR2789775

The graphic interface uses workflow techniques to define and display states of the dynamic process and manage transitions between these states. Management of the workflow mechanism is by control of the state (S) and action (A) graphic symbols associated with the workflow description.



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